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Downham Rural District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1959



Including the Report of the Public Health Inspector

(Mr. G. S. SENNITT, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.)

Dr. J. A. SLATTERY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Wilson's The Printers, Downham Market

DOWNHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Offices: London Road, Downham Market.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH, WATER AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:—

Chairman: Mr. H. G. Teverson

Vice-Chairman: Mr. C. W. Thornhill

Mr. A. E. Bailey
Mr. J. H. Johnson
Mr. W. H. Bentley
Mr. A. J. Blott
Mr. A. Dye
Mr. A. B. Fletcher
Mr. H. Gates
Mr. F. Green
Mr. M. L. Hutson
Rev. I. G. Jones
Mr. G. W. R. Neville
Mr. J. Nourse
Col. E. R. Pratt
Mr. S. J. Proctor
Mr. F. Starling
Mr. S. F. L. Warner
Mr. R. R. Wilde
Mr. G. G Wright
Mr. E. J. Wright

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members of the Committee.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

Medical Officer of Health—

Dr. J. A. SLATTERY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.
Tel.: Downham Market 3241

also holds appointments of—
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
School Medical Officer.
Medical Officer of Health, Downham Urban District Council.
Medical Officer of Health, Marshland Rural Distict Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector—

G. S. SENNITT, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Tel.: Downham Market 3287. Residence. D M. 3364.

Additional Public Health Inspector—

G. L. FIELD, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk to the Health Department—

Mrs. G. E. GOOD.

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICE,
DOWNHAM MARKET.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year ending December 31st, 1959.

The estimated mid-year population was 25,720, an increase of 1,290 over 1958.

There were 399 live births and 222 deaths.

Births. The birth rate was 17.5. There were 11 still births.

Infant Mortality. There were 6 infant deaths in 1959. Of these, 5 occurred in the first 4 weeks of life and 4 during the first week. All these deaths except one, a girl of nine months, were due to premature birth or congenital abnormalities.

Deaths. The death rate for 1959 was 10.9. The causes of death are shewn in Table 1.

There were 12 deaths from cancer of the lung compared with 4 in 1958. The average age of the women affected was 65 and of the men only 58 years. We know now that the death rate from lung cancer among heavy smokers is 40 times that for non-smokers. Parents and teachers have the answer to this problem, by the advice they give and by the example they set.

There were 3 deaths in motor vehicle accidents. In each case motor cyclists were killed. Five adults were killed in drowning accidents during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles. In 1958 there were very few cases. The minor epidemic which began in 1959 was fully expected. It reached a peak in June. Then, with the start of the school holidays, notifications dwindled away.

Food Poisoning. Three cases were notified during the year. The first case was a sudden dramatic illness typical of the type of poisoning which results from eating food upon which food poisoning organisms have grown. The cause was never discovered as no food was available for examination. In the other two cases an interval of several days had elapsed before notifications were received. It was not possible to trace the cause in these cases.

The national picture of food poisoning is a serious one. There are many hundreds of outbreaks every year. Every case of suspected food poisoning should be investigated at once, not only to trace the source but to prevent the occurrence of fresh cases. Probably a great many minor stomach upsets are caused by eating infected food or food poisoned by the growth of organisms upon it. Such food is not altered in its appearance neither does it taste or smell unusual. We can see and smell food which is going bad, but bad food is generally harmless to eat. Only food infected with one of these food poisoning organisms will make us ill and our senses are no help in detecting them. Consequently, we have to rely on clean and common-sense measures in food handling to protect ourselves from illness.

Dysentery. In October a case of dysentery was notified. No more cases were discovered during the year but cases were being notified in large numbers in other parts of the country and it seemed likely that this case would not be the last we should find. The disease is highly infectious but sometimes so mild that it causes no symptoms. It tends to be most prevalent in the winter months and to cause the greatest inconvenience to the elderly and the very young. Elderly women are more susceptible than men. Infants sometimes die of an infection.

At one time it was thought that every dysentery infection was spread by the eating of infected food or drinking infected water,but in many recent outbreaks the manner of spread appears to be more like that of other common infectious diseases, directly from one person to another. Consequently, one does not usually find that outbreaks have an explosive beginning as is often the case in food poisoning where many people are made ill by eating the same meal. Rather does it happen that epidemics go on over a period of months, waxing and waning, spreading relentlessly through whole families, villages and districts.

All these features of dysentery make it a difficult disease to control. In an Institution or closed community vigorous measures may halt an epidemic. In other situations we have to adopt what measures we can.

Cysticercosis. You will see in Mr. Sennitt's report that more cases of cysticercosis were found in 1959 than in previous years. The significance of this finding is that we know infection must have spread from people with tapeworms to the animals in which the cysts were found. The most likely means by which the spread could occur is the direct fouling of pasture land. Anything done to prevent this is a step forward in the eradication of this most unpleasant infection.

I have drawn your attention to three types of infection which are of public health concern. In each case the infections are intestinal and all are preventable. The key to their control lies in the various aspects of personal hygiene.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

Several visits were made to the homes of elderly people but no action was taken under Section 47 of the Act. In one case removal to hospital was managed by persuasion. The Act gives powers for the compulsory removal to hospital of elderly people who are ill and uncared for. Compulsion is not desirable but we have to remember that many elderly people are not well equipped to understand their own situation. Anaemia and a poor diet can bring on a state of mental confusion. It is our duty to them to see that they get the care they need.

I should like to record my appreciation for the assistance and support I have had during the year from the Clerk, Public Health Inspector and Members of the Local Health Office Staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. SLATTERY,

19th May, 1960. Medical Officer of Health.

LOCAL BYELAWS, etc., in operation in the Rural District of Downham containing provisions relating to Health.

	Operating from
1. **Building Byelaws** made by the Council—	12.12.53
2. **Clean Food Byelaws** made by the Council—	14. 8.50
3. **Byelaws** as to the Sanitary Condition and Management of Private Slaughterhouses made by the Council—	1. 2.57
4. **Byelaws** made by the Wisbech and District Water Board for preventing waste, undue consumption, misuse or contamination of water supplied by them and **Regulations** to be read in conjunction therewith—	30. 5.55

5. **Byelaws** as to Good Rule and Government made by the Norfolk County Council— 1. 6.55

6. **Byelaws** made in relation to the Employment of Children by the Norfolk County Council— 1.12.49

7. **Byelaws** as to Gates across and adjoining Highways— ... 29.11.34

8. **Byelaws** relating to the wearing of collars by dogs and the Norfolk (Control of Dogs) **Regulations**, 1925— No date specified

9. **Byelaws** and **Regulations** relating to Nursing Homes made by the Norfolk County Council— No date specified

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS — 1959

Area (in acres)	124,152
Population, 1931 (Census)	19,962
Population, 1951 (Census)	24,508
Estimated Population, 1959	25,720
Estimated number of separate Dwellings occupied, 1959	6,304
Estimated Value at 1st April, 1959	£202,804
Product of a Penny Rate, 1959/60	£786

Section A

Live Births	399
Rate per 1,000 population	17.5
Ditto for Administrative County	17.06
Ditto for England and Wales	16.5
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total Live Births	5.0
Deaths (all causes)	222
Rate per 1,000 population	10.9
Ditto for Administrative County	10.42
Ditto for England and Wales	11.6
Still Births	11
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	26.8
Ditto for Administrative County	20.89
Ditto for England and Wales	20.7
Total Live and Still Births	410
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	6
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 total Live Births	15.0
Ditto for Administrative County	19.01
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legitimate Births	10.6
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	100
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total Live Births)	10
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate	
(Still Births and Deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total Live and Still Births)	36.6
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	
Number of Deaths	0
Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	0

Section B

1. **GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.**
Norfolk Executive Council, 54 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich.
Clerk: R. J. Cobb, Esq.

2. **EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.**
Senior Administrative Medical Officer: Dr. J. B. EWEN, M.D., D.P.H.
Croft-Holme, 117 Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

(a) **General.**
- (i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
- (ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
- (iv) St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn (for chronic sick).
- (v) The Howdale Home, Downham Market.

(b) **Maternity.**
- (i) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).
- (ii) Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
- (iii) Bowthope Maternity Hospital, Wisbech.

(c) **Infectious.**
- (i) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
- (ii) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Isolation Hospital, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.

(d) **Sanatoria.**
- (i) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) **Mental.**
- (i) St. Andrew's Hospital, Norwich.
- (ii) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
- (iii) Little Plumstead, Norwich.

3. **MATERNITY SERVICES.**

(a) District Nurses (showing Parishes and Villages served) :—

Nurse M. A. Thompson, Munson's Place, Feltwell, Thetford. (Feltwell, Hockwold).

Nurse Hunns, Stoke Ferry Road, Methwold, Thetford. (Methwold).

Nurse Smith, Nurse's Cottage, Stow, King's Lynn. (Wimbotsham, Stow, Wormegay, South Runcton, Stone Cross Estate).

Nurse O'Leary, Nurse's Home, Nordelph. (Downham West, Nordelph).

Nurse Harris, Nurse's House, Buckenham Drive, Stoke Ferry. (Northwold, Stoke Ferry, Whittington).

Nurse Fitt-Savage, 6 Queen's Place, Wiggenhall St. Germans. (Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin, Wiggenhall St. Germans, Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen, Watlington, Tottenhill).

Nurse H. R. Horton, (Temp.), College Farm, Sluice Rd., Denver. (Marham, Shouldham, Shouldham Thorpe, Stradsett, Fincham, Barton Bendish).

Nurse P. A. Tuck, Nurse's House, Hilgay. (Denver, Ryston, Fordham, Hilgay, Southery).

Nurse Williams, 2 Queen's Close, Wereham. (Crimplesham, West Dereham, Wereham, Boughton, Wretton).

Nurse Armitage, 62 Station Road, Middleton. (Setch).

(b) **Maternity.**
Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments

4. AMBULANCE AND HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

This is a County Council function and is controlled by the Joint Ambulance Committee.

The Downham Rural Area is jointly served by the Downham Market, King's Lynn and Thetford Ambulances. Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by East Dereham and King's Lynn Infectious Disease Ambulances.

The Hospital Car Service is administered from the Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market.

5. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.

(a) Wiggenhall St. Germans—Mrs. Richer.
(b) Watlington—Mrs. Thomas.
(c) Marham—Mrs. F. Brown.
(d) Downham Market—Mrs. I. Burbeck.

6. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) **Infant Welfare Centres.**

(i) Downham Market.
(ii) Wimbotsham.
(iii) Watlington.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health attends at the above Sessions.

In addition, Village Infant Welfare Centres are held monthly at the following villages—Methwold, Hockwold, Hilgay, Northwold, Shouldham, Southery, Stoke Ferry, Welney, West Dereham, Magdalen, Wormegay, St. Germans, Nordelph, Marham and Feltwell.

(b) **School Dental Clinic.**

A School Dental Officer now attends the Local Health Office, The Howdale, Downham Market, on Wednesday and Friday of each week.

(c) **Home Help Service.**

The County Home Help Scheme is doing excellent work and Home Helps are available for the following parishes and villages—Barton Bendish, Feltwell, Hockwold, Northwold, Stoke Ferry, Wereham, West Dereham, Stow Bridge, Watlington, Magdalen, St. Germans, Methwold, Denver, Ten Mile Bank, Southery, Hilgay, Fincham, Setch, Tottenhill, Wimbotsham, Runcton Holme and Bexwell.

7. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.
Males: Tuesdays and Fridays—5.30 p.m.
Females and Children: Tuesdays and Wednesdays—3 p.m.

8. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

9. LABORATORY SERVICES.

(a) Public Health Laboratory, Bowthorpe Road, Norwich.
Under the direction of Dr. I. M. Dowsett.

(b) Public Analyst, Dr. Eric Wood, Ph.D., A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C.
Clarence House, 6 Clarence Road, Norwich.

(c) Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1959

Causes of Death

	Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	1	1
2	Tuberculosis, other forms	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	5	—	5
11	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	4	12
12	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	5	5
13	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	10	18
15	Leukaemia	1	—	1
16	Diabetes	1	2	3
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	14	24
18	Coronorary disease, angina	16	10	26
19	Hypertension with heart disease	4	5	9
20	Other heart diseases	17	15	32
21	Other circulatory diseases	7	8	15
22	Influenza	1	—	1
23	Pneumonia	4	5	9
24	Bronchitis	11	1	12
25	Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	1	3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	—	—	—
28	Nephritis, Nephrosis	—	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostrate	1	—	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	2	1	3
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases	11	10	21
33	Motor vehicle accidents	3	—	3
34	All other accidents	9	2	11
35	Suicide	1	1	2
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
	All causes	123	99	222

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES — 1959

Table No. 2

Notification in Age Groups

	AGES													Total	Removed to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	Age unknown			
Measles	5	15	18	27	26	99	5		2	1			3	201		
Whooping C.	4	3		3	2	14	1						2	29		
Pneumonia		2				2	2	3	3	1	7	8	3	31	1	
Inf Jaundice									1				1	2		
Scarlet Fever			3	3		11	8	1	1	3				30		
Opthalmnia Neonatorum	1													1		
Erysipelas											5	2		7		
Non-Para. Polio										1				1	1	
Paralytic Polio																
Dysentery				1										1		
Food Poisoning						1			1		1			3		
Encephalitis									1					1	1	
Diphtheria																
Puerperal Pyrexia									1					1	1	
TOTALS	10	20	21	34	28	127	16	4	10	6	13	10	9	308	4	0

Table No. 3

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES — 1959

(other than Tuberculosis)

DISEASE	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Measles	2	-	13	49	35	56	35	8	1	-	-	2	201
Whooping C.	4	1	1	3	1	2	6	3	5	3	-	-	29
Pneumonia'	4	6	5	1	2	-	1	-	5	4	-	3	31
Inf. Jaundice	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Scarlet Fever	2	15	3	5	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	30
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	7
Non-Para Polio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Paralytic Polio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3
Diptheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
TOTALS	13	23	25	60	41	58	42	14	13	10	3	6	308

Table No. 4

NEW CASES OF AND DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS — 1959

AGE IN YEARS	NEW CASES				DEATHS				TOTAL
	Respiratory		Non. Respir.		Respirarory		Non. Respir.		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Fcmale	Male	Female	
—1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
—5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
—15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
—25	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
—35	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
—45	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
—55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
—65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
TOTALS	4	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	2

Section D

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Ninth Annual Report records another year of progress in most spheres of public health work. The Council continued to deal with unfit property by individual action rather than Clearance Area procedure, and substantial progress was made. The re-housing of tenants, particularly the aged, proceeded smoothly, and it is felt that the accommodation provided has been very satisfactory.

The state of repair of the Council controlled hutments on the Stone Cross Estate is serious, and the general desolation prevailing at the present time is most damaging to the morale of the occupants. Whilst the Council are taking steps to expedite re-housing, I feel it necessary to stress that the problem requires tackling with the utmost urgency.

100% inspection of meat slaughtered in the District was again maintained, and public cleansing has been carried out with relatively few complaints, although the problem of unsightly and unhygienic refuse containers remains. The disposal of refuse has been much more efficiently carried out with the aid of the tractor and equipment, and there is now appreciably more to dispose of!

Although the Southery Sewerage scheme had still not been commenced, the Council gave directions for further schemes to be prepared. Considerable impetus will undoubtedly be given to private development and improvements schemes in our villages when main drainage is a reality.

The present housing standard which the Council can reasonably enforce in regard to minimum fitness requires the provision of a kitchen sink drained to a soakaway only and pail lavatories. Who can deny that a bath, washbasin, W.C. and constant hot water are essential in 1960? Enumerable smaller properties have just not the area of land required to provide for the disposal of waste from such fitments without recurrent nuisance and arguments with neighbours. There is indeed much to be done!

I wish to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation given by Members and all Officers of the Council during the year, particularly Mr. Field, the Additional Public Health Inspector, and Mrs. G. E. Good, the Clerk/Shorthand Typist; and am indebted to my colleagues the Surveyor and Housing Manager for information relating to Housing and Sewerage.

Summary of Visits.

Water Supply		46
Drainage and Sanitation		562
Refuse Collection and Disposal		319
Salvage		13
Petroleum		56
Moveable Dwellings		155
Factories		13
Bakehouses		13
Rodent Control		8
Housing		1037
Infectious Disease		13
Meat Inspection		753
Slaughterhouses		23
Food Premises		160
Licensed Premises		36
Milk and Dairies		12
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits		295
	Total	3514
Figures for previous years	1958	3493
	1957	3130
	1956	3408

COMPLAINTS AND NUISANCES.

193 complaints were entered in the Register, investigated and dealt with.

The complaints were mainly of unsatisfactory drainage, housing defects and smells from accumulations of refuse, manure and the keeping of animals.

In addition, verbal notice was sufficient in numerous cases to bring about the improvements required, or to secure the abatement of nuisances.

NOTICES SERVED.

The number of written Notices, other than Housing Act Notices, served during the year was 62, classified as follows:—

	Informal (Letters)	*Statutory*	*Complied With*	*Complied with Notices served during 1957/58*
Housing Repairs	15	1	5	3
Drainage	25	1	18	4
Food Premises	4	—	2	6
Dirty Conditions	1	—	1	—
Water Supply	3	—	2	—
Miscellaneous	12	—	5	—
Totals	60	2	33	13

In addition, verbal notice was sufficient in numerous cases to bring about the improvements required, or to secure the abatement of nuisances.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

(a) General.

Whilst a fair amount of work was done in securing compliance with the Clean Food Code, the regular routine inspection of food premises had to be curtailed owing to the demands of other work.

Food traders generally these days seem anxious to improve their facilities, however. The sale of prepacked food and the use of refrigerators is much more common in shops in the District. Housewives who have refrigerators and other facilities at home expect them in the shops!

An effort will be made to direct more attention to food premises during the next year. It is estimated that approximately 25% of such premises in the District do not comply with the Regulations, and many of these are Licensed Houses, where the Brewery Companies have had a big improvement programme.

The Council has also asked that special attention be directed to mobile food traders.

No prosecutions were necessary during the year.

In regard to my remarks about Poultry Packing Stations in the District in the last Annual Report, it is to be regretted that the "large" plant at Wretton, which had been extensively equipped and modernised to deal with some 15,000 birds per week, ceased operations early in the year owing to financial difficulties. In addition, a small modern station at Stoke Ferry was never utilised after completion. I am given to understand that a weekly throughput of some 50,000 birds is now thought to be necessary for the "economic" functioning of a plant with modern equipment and health safeguards!

The Ministry of Health is studying the health aspect of the rapidly expanding poultry trade, which has presented several new problems, and public health officers in many areas are co-operating in an effort to solve them.

At the 31st December, there were in the District:—

5	Fishmongers (selling wet fish)
13	Fish Friers (including 4 mobile units)
9	Bakehouses
19	Butchers Shops
6	Licensed Slaughterhouses
3	Cafes
90	Licensed Houses.
1	Greengrocer
124	General Food Shops
9	Mobile Food Shops operating.

The Health Department of the Norfolk County Council continued to make inspections of the food and facilities at School canteens in the area, 24 such inspections being recorded. A small amount of food was condemned and destroyed as a result. The County Medical Officer reports that there is no regular medical inspection of canteen staffs in Norfolk.

(b) Ice-Cream.

7 new premises were registered during the year. At 31st December, 77 premises were selling ice-cream, including fruit ices, all of it being prepared and pre-packed by the large companies. No manufacture of ice-cream is carried on in the District.

6 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. All were bacteriologically satisfactory.

(c) **Slaughterhouses.**

There were six slaughterhouses registered at 31st December, a reduction of three on the previous year. They are all small, and cater only for the requirements of the individual butchers, being situated as follows:—

1 at Marham
2 at Stoke Ferry
1 at Feltwell
1 at Methwold
1 at Stow Bridge.

The hygienic conditions maintained were generally satisfactory, and an improvement in the cleanliness of protective clothing at certain premises was noted. There were again no complaints from the public arising out of the use of any of the slaughterhouses.

New regulations relating to hygiene and prevention of cruelty at slaughterhouses came into force generally on 1st January, 1959, although most structural provisions did not apply until a future date to be decided after a special report to the Minister by each Local Authority on the slaughtering requirements of its District. Discussions on the requirements took place with the butchers throughout the year.

Generally, it appeared that all the slaughterhouse operators would wish to continue slaughtering, but extensive structural alterations to some premises would almost certainly be necessary.

(d) **Slaughtermen.**

The number of licensed slaughtermen in the District at 31st December, 1959, was 30. It is interesting to note that quite a lot of these men keep their licences from a sentimental point of view, and do not practice their craft.

(e) **Meat Inspection.**

There was the usual co-operation from butchers, and your Officers were able to maintain 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered. A relatively small amount of overtime working was necessary.

There was a general increase in the number of all animals slaughtered apart from calves:—

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
1957	655	None	7	1108	1703
1958	673	None	3	1286	1878
1959	689	None	3	1479	1921

Again there was a considerable reduction in the percentage of cattle affected by tuberculosis, 1.16% against 2.97% last year and 5.8% in 1957. No carcase was wholly condemned. It is understood that figures tend to be higher in Districts where there are larger slaughterhouses, but the disease generally is becoming much rarer in cattle.

The percentage of animals affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis and C. Bovis is up on previous years, and again is mainly due to conditions affecting bovine livers, particularly fluke.

It is to be regretted that the number of cattle affected by cysticercosis increased from 5 in 1958 to 13 last year.

(f) **Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year.**

	Cattle excluding Cow	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	689	——	3	1479	1921	——
Number inspected	689	——	3	1479	1921	——
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—	——	——	——	——	——
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	116	——	1	4	48	——
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dlsease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	16.82	——	33·33	0.27	2.49	——
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned	—	——	——	——	——	——
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	——	——	——	49	——
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.16	——	——	——	2.55	——
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	13	——	——	——	——	——
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	10*	——	——	——	——	——
Generalised and totally condemned	—	——	——	——	——	——

* Three carcases cut into retail joints and examined

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year

Weight of Condemned Meat.

		lbs.
Beasts		
Head and Offal		1861½
Calves		
Carcase meat		10
Pigs		
Carcase meat		104
Head and Offal		755
Sheep		
Offal ...		13
	Total	2743½ lbs.
	or 1 ton 4½ cwts. approx.	

New Regulations requiring the stunning and sterilisation of condemned meat were published and should have come into operation on 1st April, 1959. They were revoked before this date, however, and replacement regulations had still not been published at the end of the year.

(g) **Registration of Premises for the Preparation of Sausages, etc.**

16 butchers' premises were registered at the end of the year, the same as 1958, and conditions remained satisfactory.

(h) **Food Contamination.**

3 complaints only were received and investigated, two relating to stale dough and mould in bread, and one relating to a dirty milk bottle.

Legal action was not considered necessary.

(i) **Milk and Dairies.**

The District is included in a "Specified Area," and only designated milk can be sold.

At 31st December, 1959, 7 dairies and 28 distributors were registered by the Council.

With regard to designated milk the following "Dealers" Licences were issued:—

15 "Tuberculin Tested." 15 "Pasteurised." 1 "Sterilised."

In addition the following "Supplementary Dealers" Licences were issued to persons trading outside the district:—

13 "Tuberculin Tested." 13 "Pasteurised." 7 "Sterilised."

During 1959, the County Council's staff took fourteen samples of milk from producers' premises for biological examination for tuberculosis and all proved negative. Of two samples of farm bottled T.T. milk taken from retail rounds and submitted for biological examination for brucella abortus, both proved negative. Of seventeen samples of milk taken from retail rounds for submission to the methylene blue test, fifteen were satisfactory, one was void owing to the overnight storage temperature exceeding 65°F. and one failed in one and a half hours. All fifteen samples of pasteurised milk taken from retail rounds passed the phosphatase test.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is only one licensed Knackers Yard in the district at High Street, Fincham, and conditions during the year were satisfactory. Only a small business is carried on.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

9 Site Licences for trailer caravans were in force during the year, the locations and numbers being as follows:—

Feltwell.

One for 3 vans and 3 sheds

One for 4 vans

One for 35 vans

One for 5 vans.

Marham.

One for 5 vans

Methwold Hythe.

One for 4 vans, Shed and Tent.

Shouldham.

Two for 10 vans each.

The vans on the above sites were almost solely occupied by service families. Sanitary conditions on the sites were satisfactory. One van on a site at Feltwell was destroyed by fire, fortunately without serious consequences. Licences issued by the Council now require fire extinguishers to be provided.

18 Licences were in force during the year in respect of individual caravans.

Reference has been made several times in Annual Reports to weaknesses in the legal provisions as to caravan sites generally, and in November, 1959, a comprehensive report by Sir Arton Wilson, K.B.E., C.B., was published summarising the situation throughout the country. The conclusion was that urgent action by the Government was necessary to simplify and strengthen the legal provisions, particularly in regard to residential caravanning.

HOUSING.

(a) **Housing Acts and Council Housing.**

17 houses, mainly bungalows, were completed by the end of the year, and another 38 were under construction, all being for slum clearance needs. 28 families were rehoused by the Council from unfit dwellings, including 5 from the Council's hutments on Stone Cross Estate. One tubercular patient was rehoused.

The further needs of the slum clearance programme were due to be considered by the Council in January, 1960, and the urgent situation on the Stone Cross Estate has been mentioned in the preface.

A table is set out showing the results of action taken under the Housing Act, 1957. The Council's policy is to proceed against any unfit and irrepairable houses becoming vacant, and without doubt good progress in reducing the number of bad houses is being made. Only three unfit dwellings remained to be dealt with on the River Banks at Stow Bridge and Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen at the end of the year, and the strengthening of the banks by the Great Ouse River Board has been greatly facilitated.

On several occasions, the Council had to cope with the difficulty of unfit houses becoming occupied again after rehousing had taken place, this being due to the time required for the formal action to be completed. It is hoped that a strengthening of the law will be considered by Parliament at an early date.

During the year, 30 pre-war Council Houses were modernised by the addition of baths, lavatory basins and W.Cs., hot and cold water supplies, drainage systems and fuel stores as under:—

12 at Southery
12 at Wiggenhall St. Germans
6 at Northwold.

Discretionary Improvement Grants made during the year totalled 19, covering 25 dwellings, the sum involved being £5,963.

5 applications for Standard Grants were approved for payment at the end of the year. These grants had been authorised by the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, which was designed to provide a simplified system whereby private owners could obtain grants as of right, of half the cost, up to a maximum of £155, of installing five basic improvements—a bath or shower, a wash-handbasin, a water closet, a hot water system and a food-store.

The right to a grant was dependant on quite a few conditions being observed, however, and your Officers were of the opinion that press and other publicity had over-simplified the procedure. This was probably intentional, however, to encourage applications, and without doubt much good work will be done under the Act.

(b) **Rent Act, 1957.**

Only 2 Certificates of Disrepair were issued by the Council, no applications being refused.

3 Undertakings to repair by owners were accepted, and one Certificate was eventually cancelled on completion of repairs.

(c) **Temporary Hutments, Stone Cross Estate.**

At 31st December, 62 dwellings remained in occupation. They are closed or demolished when vacated, although your Housing Manager is authorised to utilise the best accommodation by transfers.

(d) **Waiting List.**

On 1st November, 1959, following the annual revision, there were 364 individual applications for accommodation registered, figures for previous years being as under:—

1958 — 363
1957 — 331
1956 — 314
1955 — 301.

The Parishes of Methwold, Feltwell and Denver had most applications in that order.

(e) **Summary of Council Dwellings at 31st December.**

Traditional Houses.	
(a) Pre-war	420
(b) Post-war	721
Pre-fabricated Permanent Houses.	
(Aireys and Swedish)	76
Stone Cross Temporary Hutments ...	62
Flats	8
Other Properties.	
Downham Market	7
Stoke Ferry (2 unoccupied)	10
Northwold (2 unoccupied)	4
Nordelph	2
Total	1310

(f) **Private Enterprise Housing.**

41 permanent houses and bungalows were completed during the year, and 22 were under construction.

33 were completed in 1958, 34 in 1957 and 19 in 1956.

HOUSING ACT ACTION

1st January to 31st December, 1959.

	Demolition Orders made	Closing Orders made	Undertakings not to relet accepted	Unfit Dwellings Vol. Demolished	Unfit Dwellings Dem. Formal Act	Unfit Dwellings Rep. Formal Act	Unfit Dwellings Purchased	Cat. 5 Dwellings still to be dealt with
Barton Bendish	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Boughton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Crimplesham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Denver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Dereham West	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7
Downham West incl. Salter's Lode	2	1	1	2	3	—	—	14
Feltwell	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	17
Fincham	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	7
Fordham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hilgay incl. Ten Mile Bank	5	11	2	—	—	—	—	34
Hockwold	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	25
Marham	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6
Methwold	2	6	3	—	4	1	—	9
Nordelph	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	11
Northwold	10	3	—	—	1	1	—	9
Runcton Holme	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Ryston incl. Stone Cross	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65
Shouldham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Shouldham Thorpe	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	6
Southery	—	1	—	—	4	1	—	12
Stoke Ferry	1	—	—	—	1	1	6	18
Stow Bardolph	4	2	1	6	5	—	—	15
Stradsett	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tottenhill	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Watlington	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Welney	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	20
Wereham	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Wiggenhall St. Germans	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen	7	5	2	1	5	1	—	9
Wiggenhall St. Mary the Virgin	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	6
Wimbotsham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Wormegay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8
Wretton	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	15
Totals	39	37	14	9	27	11	6	374
Figures for 1958	35	26	6	9	30	11	4	445

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**

House refuse was collected fortnightly throughout the District from the "kerbside" by four, and occasionally five men, utilising two 12 cubic yard rear-loading vehicles. Both vehicles are hand-operated moving-floor types, one having a petrol and the other a diesel power unit.

Another vehicle of a different type of 18 cubic yard capacity and having a diesel engine was ordered to replace the older petrol-engined vehicle during the year. The amount of refuse to be collected has increased greatly of late, and more people in outlying properties are demanding a service. The establishment of the caravan sites, in particular at Feltwell, has increased the demand on the service by about 1½ vehicle loads per round.

Bins were collected from the rear of premises occupied by old or disabled persons, whilst much paper is collected separately and placed in a compartment at the front of the vehicles.

20 properties in the Saddlebow area are still serviced for the King's Lynn Corporation.

Disposal of refuse took place at tips at Magdalen, Shouldham, Wereham, Fincham, Whittington, Feltwell and Ten Mile Bank.

Agreement was reached with the owners of the other half of the tip at Magdalen for the continuation of tipping, and this will leave a much more satisfactory surface on completion. The disused drain known as Sam's Cut at Ten Mile Bank was also acquired, and tipping commenced later in the year. It was not, in consequence, necessary to resort to tipping in water at the Stow Gravel Pits.

The new tractor and equipment has more than justified its acquisition, and it was in operation from February onwards. The tips are maintained much more satisfactorily. The driver of the tractor hauls soil cover in the Bedford Tipper vehicle when available, and no contractor is employed, neither are tip boards necessary. There has been a considerable reduction in tyre wear and punctures on the collection vehicles, and only five punctures have been experienced on the tractor itself, although a better type of tyre on the collection vehicles and a superior tyre on the front of the tractor have also helped.

(b) **Salvage of Waste Paper.**

Waste paper is baled by the Council's employees in their own time at fixed rates per bale according to grade.

16½ tons of paper were despatched during the year ending 31st March, 1960, and a surplus of £75 resulted. The Council has a five year contract with a Board Mill.

(c) **Pail Emptying.**

Pail closets were emptied once weekly during the daytime in the Parishes of Hilgay, Denver, Downham West, Fincham and Feltwell, 2½ days per week being spent on this work. The cost of the work had previously been met by a Parish special rate, but as from 1st April, 1959, the Council decided that half of the cost should be borne by the general rate fund. In addition, it was decided that no extension of the pail emptying service be undertaken.

The tank used on occasions in conjunction with the Bedford Tipper for pail emptying became unserviceable during the year, but it was decided not to ask for replacement in view of the availability of the private contractor, Tovey Transport, Ltd., in emergencies.

The use of the tractor and equipment for the construction of straw composting bays for pail contents considerably eased the disposal situation, and several of these are in use on private land. Acknowledgement is made to the co-operation of farmers in this connection.

(d) **Cesspool Emptying.**

In addition to the work carried out on pail emptying, 405 cesspools were emptied by the Council's cesspool emptier. The Sewage Plants under the control of the Council were desludged on 70 occasions, treatment being given at regular four-monthly intervals.

Tovey Transport, Ltd., were employed during every month from March onwards and 153 cesspools were emptied at an agreed charge of £12 per day.

Overtime working by the Council's cesspool emptier was practically eliminated by utilising the services of Tovey Transport, Ltd. Priority was given to the desludging of Sewage Plants and these two factors resulted in a decrease in the numbers of cesspools emptied by direct labour.

On 1st April, 1959, the charge for cesspool emptying was reduced from £2 to £1 for the removal of up to two loads, the loss being borne by the General Rate Fund. Additional loads were still charged at the rate of 10/- per load.

Total number of cesspools emptied in previous years:—

1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
558	471	541	594	530	501	390	347	319	270

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Approval in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was received in respect of the scheme designed for Southery, and working drawings and quantities were in the course of preparation by your Surveyor's Department. Draft schemes had been prepared and drainage areas defined in respect of the Parishes of Hilgay and Feltwell.

21 Housing Site Sewage treatment plants were maintained during the year, no new plants being completed or under construction. By the end of the year, Ministry approval had been obtained to improvements at Wormegay plant, which was of insufficient capacity, and a contract for the work had been let.

The appointment of the Sewage Works Attendant and the provision of a separate van for his use enabled more effective maintenance to be given to the plants.

A scheme for the improvement of surface water/foul drainage at Shouldham was prepared by the County Council, and a further meeting of representatives of the County, Rural and Parish Councils was subsequently held to discuss the matter.

It was decided that the most appropriate course would be for a proper sewerage scheme to be prepared and carried out by the Rural Council as soon as possible, whilst the problem of the blocked watercourse was referred back to the Parish Council and the owners concerned.

Periodical cleansing of various "sewerage dykes" was carried out, and in particular a troublesome dyke at Magdalen was cleansed by dragline under contract. Sub-irrigation drains were installed on numerous cesspools on Council Housing Sites.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT — SECTION 50.

Two burials were carried out by the Council during the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOOD) ORDER, 1957.

The administration of this Act was delegated to the Council by the Norfolk County Council as from 1st October, 1959.

PROPOSED SWIMMING POOL.

In March, the Council, in conjunction with Downham Urban District Council, decided to provide a Swimming Pool at an estimated cost of £13,000. Discussions on the details proceeded during the year.

The pool should make a positive contribution to health and safety in the area, in particular as regards schoolchildren.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(a) **Main Piped Supplies.**

The Wisbech and District Water Board were responsible for 2 sources of supply to the Rural District, viz., the northern half from the River Nar and bore at Marham and the southern half from the bore at Denton Lodge, Feltwell.

I am again indebted to the Board's Engineer, Mr. J. K. Dawson, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., for the following information:—

WISBECH AND DISTRICT WATER BOARD

Water Analyses, 1959. Downham Rural District.

Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1959 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

Samples Taken.

	Bacteriological Examinations			
	No. of Tests Taken	No. of Tests Negative	No. of Tests Positive	Chemical Analyses
Board's Works				
Raw Water	203	190	13	
Treated Water	359	355	4	
Consumers' Taps	47	47	0	
Totals	609	592	17	121
Total of all examinations and analyses				730

Treated water samples were 99.0% negative on examination for organisms of the Coliform group. This represents a continued very high standard of bacterial purity.

J. S. COLLINS,

21st January, 1960. Chemist and Bacteriologist.

NEW MAINS LAID DURING 1959.

Churchill Crescent, Housing Site	3 in. S.I.	61 yds.
Webbs Lane, Northwold	3 in. A.C.	190 yds.
No. 1 Fire Hydrant fixed	2 in. A.C.	53 yds.
Middle Drove, Stow Bardolph	3 in. A.C.	113 yds.
Saddlebow Bridge, Renewal	3 in. A.C.	34 yds.

NEW SUPPLIES — January to December, 1959.

Barton Bendish	2	Saddlebow	1
Bexwell	2	Setch	1
Boughton	2	Shouldham	6
Crimplesham	3	Southery	3
Denver	4	Stoke Ferry	13
Feltwell	4	Stow Bardolph	5
Fordham	1	Ten Mile Bank	5
Fincham	6	Watlington	14
Hilgay	26	Wereham	3
Hockwold	2	West Dereham	6
Marham	4	Wiggenhall St. Mary Magdalen	8
Methwold	15	Wiggenhall St. Mary	1
Northwold	8	Wiggenhall St. Germans	6
Nordelph	4	Wimbotsham	2
Runcton Holme	5	Whittington	1
Roxham	1	Wretton	2
		Total	166

SMALL WATER SUPPLIES.

12 samples were taken for bacteriological examination from 10 sources, only one was satisfactory.

A supply of mains water was provided in one case and in respect of two other properties the Council agreed to sponsor a water extension scheme to ensure the availability of a mains supply. In regard to the other properties, the tenants were advised to boil all water before use, as mains water was not available.

One property was found to be without a supply of water, and after representations to the Owner, a mains supply was provided.

Six samples of well water intended for use for infant feeding were submitted for examination by the County Council's Health Department for nitrate content during the year. Of these, five were found to be satisfactory and in the remaining case a satisfactory alternative supply was advised.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937—1959.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	13	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	—	—	—
Total	64	13	1	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total...	1	2	-	-	-

Part VIII. There are, as far as is known, no Outworkers employed in the District.

By Section 9 of the Factories Act, 1959, the functions of the Council in relation to Means of Escape in Case of Fire will be taken over by the Fire Authority on a date to be appointed by the Minister.

DESTRUCTION OF PESTS.

(a) **Rats and Mice.**

Free treatment or advice was again provided at domestic premises, whilst a charge of 10/- per hour was made in respect of treatment at business and agricultural premises.

One rodent operative is employed, and a small Austin Van is provided for his use. A private operator is based at Hilgay, and he supplies a fairly comprehensive coverage of agricultural land on a contract basis.

The Council's employee has a store at the Stone Cross Depot. He made 3,048 visits for all purposes and a total of 745 separate treatments were carried out. (752 in 1958, 610 in 1957).

Whilst he was kept busy, infestations were not as serious as previous years owing to the dry Summer.

The 50% Grant from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in respect of Rodent Control work ceased as from 1st April, 1959.

(b) There were numerous applications for advice in respect of other insect pests, mainly wasps. Approximately 80 wasps nests were destroyed by the Council's staff, and no charge was made. This large number was a result of the dry Summer.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. S. SENNITT,

Senior Public Health Inspector.